

TRAFFIC COMMISSION
November 18, 2010 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic Commission was held in the Community Services Building, Community Room #104, 150 North Third Street, on the above date. Brian Malone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08pm.

Members Present: Brian Malone, Chair
Gregory Bragg
Robert Heins
Ralph Herman
David Justl
Joe Terranova

Members Absent: Paul McKenna, Jr., Vice Chair
Rebecca Granite-Johnson

Staff Present: Ken Johnson—Traffic Engineering, Public Works
Sandy George—Recording Secretary, Public Works
Rabie Rahmani—Principal Civil Engineer, Public Works
Rebekka Hosken—Administrative Analyst II, Public Works
Lt. JJ Puglisi—Police Department, Traffic
Bonnie Teafora—Director, Public Works
Rick Morillo—City Attorney Department
David Kriske—Principal Planner, Community Development Dept
Cory Wilkerson—Asst. Transportation Planner, Community Dev Dept

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. ROLL CALL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic Commission)

A. Public Communication

Mr. Emilio Urioste, Principal of Burroughs High School, requested stop signs be installed on Clark Avenue and Lamer Street, both east and west sides, among other changes to streets surrounding Burroughs High School, in order to improve safety.

Mr. Kevin McCarney, a resident and parent of Burroughs students, feels that stop sign installation and other changes at Burroughs H.S. are urgently needed and should be completed soon.

Mr. Alan Kosgeryan, a student at John Burroughs H.S., voiced his support of the stop sign installation on neighboring streets.

Emily Gabel-Luddy, a member of the Mobility Subcommittee of the Burbank Sustainable Task Force and Planning Board member, urged the Commission to go ahead with the installation of the stop signs near Burroughs H.S., to increase nearby traffic calming.

Winnie Cascolan, a staff member at Burroughs H.S.; Jef Vander Borgh, former Mayor of Burbank; Michael Hastings, a resident, former Mayor of Burbank; and Liam Vogel, a student at Burroughs H.S. all voiced a need for additional stop signs at Clark Avenue and Lamer Street.

Mr. Johnson indicated the Burroughs H.S. traffic management issue will be placed on the December Traffic Commission agenda.

Leslie McNeal and James McNeal, both of Schaefer Ambulance Company, postponed their comments until item B and the Public Hearing, section VI.

LaVerne Thomas, a resident, postponed her comments until items B and E.

B. Commission Member and School Subcommittee Communication

Mr. Heins questioned the necessity of stop sign installation at Burroughs, citing students should be aware when crossing the street not to enter if a car is approaching.

Mr. Herman moved to add an agenda item soon regarding signal timing at Olive Ave and First St, and the three traffic signals outside of the Empire Center (two on Empire Blvd, one at Victory Pl), since traffic backs up there. Mr. Heins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Johnson indicated this would go on the December agenda.

Mr. Bragg shared suggestions from the School Safety Subcommittee after their visit to Burroughs H.S., including removing some red curb and an unused bus zone to free up loading/unloading curb space, and changes to sign and signal configurations. The Subcommittee will present a report at the December after visiting more schools. Mr. Johnson suggested the Subcommittee report be presented to the City Council.

C. Staff Communication

Mr. Johnson said staff is going to the City Council on December 7th to ask for authorization to enter into an agreement with Caltrans to get money for two traffic signals on Verdugo Avenue at Burroughs High School.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Herman moved to have discussion and approval of the October 28, 2010 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Heins. The minutes were approved unanimously (Mr. Bragg abstaining) with the addition of 3 more agenda items listed by Mr. Justl.

V. REPORTS

A. Verbal Taxicab Report (Hirsch)

Postponed until next month's meeting.

*****The Traffic Commission conducted the Public Hearing (Section VI) at this time.
Minutes are provided in Section VI.*****

B. Non-Emergency Medical Vehicle Transportation (Johnson)

LaVerne Thomas, a resident, asked that this item be postponed until a better understanding of what this is can be developed.

Mr. McNeal of Schaefer Ambulance indicated he does not support blending the non-emergency ordinance with the taxi cab ordinance.

Mr. Johnson will bring back the Los Angeles County, City of Glendale and City of Burbank's ambulet ordinances to the Traffic Commission. This issue will be postponed until the December meeting. Ms. Thomas, Mr. McNeal, Mr. Morillo, and all Traffic Commission members present participated in the discussion.

C. Discussion of Kenneth Road Bike Boulevard (Johnson) (Formerly item F)

Mr. Cory Wilkerson, Asst. Transportation Planner-Community Development Department, gave the status and details of this project. A community feedback meeting will take place at a December 8th meeting. Mr. Herman suggested the community meeting be advertised in the Burbank Leader newspaper and on the city's website.

Mr. Bragg supports this project, but suggests installation of stop signs at the four-way intersections at schools along this project location. Mr. Wilkerson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Rahmani and all Traffic Commission members present participated in the discussion.

D. Scramble Crosswalk at San Fernando Bl. & Magnolia Bl. (Johnson) (Formerly item C)

Staff does not recommend installation of a scramble crosswalk at this location because doing so would limit green light time needed to efficiently move a large number of cars through Magnolia to cross over the I-5 freeway. The Traffic Commission members present agreed with staff recommendations not to install a scramble crosswalk. Lt. Puglisi, Mr. Herman, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Malone and Mr. Rahmani participated in this discussion.

E. Discussion of Alameda North NPP (Johnson) (formerly item D)

At the City Council's request, the Traffic Commission discussed parking and traffic restrictions currently in place in the neighborhood and additional potential future parking restrictions proposed in the Alameda North Neighborhood Protection Project.

Ms. Thomas expressed concern that decisions made with resident committee approval should not be changed by the Traffic Commission without consulting those committee members.

Mr. Terranova moved that the City not implement phase 2 modifications and

improvements (as shown in the report attachments) to the area at this time, with the exception that the additional parking proposed on California Street and Whitnall Highway (shown on attachment 5 of the report) near Stevenson School be considered at this time. Mr. Justl seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Justl further moved to recommend to City Council in regard to Attachment 3 (Phase 1 Modifications that 1) street edge lines on Oak Street not be replaced when they wear out, 2) the restricted through movements on Lima Street at Alameda Avenue be removed, and 3) the 2-hour parking restrictions installed with the Alameda North NPP be removed, except the first half block from Alameda Street north on Cordova Street. Mr. Terranova seconded the motion, which was passed with one opposed, Mr. Bragg.

Ms. Teafor, Ms. Thomas, and the Traffic Commission members present all participated in the discussion.

Mr. Heins left the meeting.

F. Verdugo Bike Lane and HSIP Grant Application (Rahmani) (Formerly item G)

Mr. Rahmani updated the Commission on the status of these projects. At the November 2nd City Council meeting, City Council directed staff to come back in 6 months to see if surrounding areas have been impacted by the Verdugo Bike Lane project, and use remaining funds from the project for some other improvement in the Verdugo Avenue area. Council also directed staff to proceed with the HSIP Grant Application to extend the bike lane from Olive to Victory to the east, and Hollywood Way to the westerly City limits.

Mr. Kriske updated on the Commission on Verdugo Avenue traffic reconfiguration results presented to council on November 2nd. The main finding was that travel speeds on Verdugo before and after the project alterations had not significantly changed.

Mr. Justl moved that curb extensions not be included within the HSIP grant application on Verdugo Ave, seconded for discussion by Mr. Terranova. The motion was defeated, with a vote of one (Mr. Justl) to four. Mr. Justl made a second motion to remove the curb extensions from the grant with the exception of Virginia Avenue. Mr. Terranova seconded the motion, which was defeated, two votes (Mr. Justl and Mr. Terranova) to three votes.

Mr. Malone moved to support staff's recommendations for these projects/grants, seconded by Mr. Herman. The motion passed with one opposed (Mr. Justl). Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kriske, Lt. Puglisi and the remaining Traffic Commission members participated in the discussion.

G. Traffic Control Plans for Construction Zones (Rahmani) (Formerly item E)

Mr. Rahmani described the requirements for traffic control plan requirements for working in the public right-of-way. The plans should comply with the California MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices).

Mr. Herman was concerned with the maintenance of traffic signage used at construction zones. Ms. Teaforad acknowledged the importance of proper signage, but pointed out the limited number of staff available to do frequent inspections of projects. Mr. Malone, Mr. Herman, Ms. Teaforad, and Lt. Puglisi participated in the discussion.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Request by Bowers Ambulance for Operating Permit (Johnson)

Mr. Johnson explained that historically the Traffic Commission has approved applications for non emergency ambulance service operating permit if company is currently approved by the County of Los Angeles. Since Bowers Ambulance is currently approved by the County, staff recommends approving their application.

Mr. Morillo discussed his research and meetings with Mr. Hirsch (from Burbank License and Code) regarding developing a potential ordinance to govern non-emergency medical transportation.

Leslie McNeal from Schaefer Ambulance Company requested the Traffic Commission follow the Los Angeles County licensing requirements for ambulance and non-emergency medical transportation, and not combine it with a taxicab ordinance. Ms. McNeal said she has observed Bowers Ambulance already operating within Burbank without a city permit to do so. She requests that the Traffic Commission not reward those actions by issuing Bowers a permit now that they have applied for one, and requests the Commission postpone their decision until more notice can be made to additional interested parties.

James McNeal, president of Schaefer Ambulance, expressed his concern that approving Bowers Ambulance's request for a permit would be rewarding their behavior of operating already within the city without a permit.

Mr. Terranova moved to table the decision on the Bowers Ambulance permit application until a representative from their company is present at the meeting, and to give due notification to all parties wanting to speak on the subject, seconded by Mr. Justl. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Morillo, Ms. McNeal, Mr. McNeal, and the entire Traffic Commission present participated in the discussion.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

December

1. Verbal Taxicab Report (Monthly)
2. Non-Emergency Medical Vehicle Transportation
3. Traffic Signal Timing at Several Intersections (November 2010)
4. Burroughs Traffic Safety Requests (November 2010)
5. LNCV Status Report (Monthly)
6. Fairview St Parking Restrictions
7. Request by Bowers Ambulance for Operating Permit (November 2010)

Future Agendas

1. Parking in Magnolia Park (March 2009)
2. Commercial Vehicle Parking Restrictions (July 2008)
3. News Racks in Red Curb (Location Criteria and Number Allowed) (March 2010)
4. Traffic Calming (March 2008)
5. Status of Truck Routes in Burbank (June 2009)
6. Vehicles for Sale on Public Streets
7. LNCV Status Report (Johnson) (Monthly)
8. Requirements of New 2010 MUTCD) (November 2010)
9. Options for crosswalk on Victory Blvd at California St (October 2010)
10. Modified Left Turn Signal Detection
11. LNCV Parking in Parks (November 2010)
12. Progress of the Olive Avenue Streetscape Project (March 2010)

School Safety Subcommittee (Mr. Gussow, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Heins-advisor)

1. Parking Near Schools at Dismissal Time on Street Sweeper Day (June 2009)
2. Bicycle Helmet Education (September 2009)
3. Edison Parking Issues
4. Burroughs Traffic Issues
5. Lincoln Street Traffic

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Herman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm, seconded by Mr. Bragg. The motion was approved by all present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16th, 2010, at 4:00pm in the Community Services Building (CSB) 1st floor, room 104, 150 N Third St, Burbank, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer
KJ: smg